

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-12 are allowed, and claims 2 and 13-15 are rejected. Further, claims 16 and 17 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Review and reconsideration on the merits are requested.

In response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, claim 2 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Namely, claim 2 has been amended to recite "scratches" in place of "grooves," so as to be consistent with the language of claim 1.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is respectfully requested.

In response to the rejection of claims 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morita et al (U.S. Publication No. US 2001/0010941), claims 13-15 have been canceled.

Withdrawn method claims 16 and 17 include all of the limitations of product claim 1. Because product claim 1 is allowable, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of claims 16 and 17 pursuant to MPEP § 821.04.

Withdrawal of all rejections, rejoinder of claims 16 and 17 and allowance of claims 1-12 and 16-17 is earnestly solicited.

In the event that the Examiner believes that it may be helpful to advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number indicated below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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